THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Responding to media queries, the UN Secretary General had said in September 2004 "I have indicated that it was not in conformity with the UN Charter from our point of view, from the Charter point of view, it was illegal."

(b) and (c) India had consistently maintained that the military action in Iraq was not in conformity with the U.N. charter. This is also reflected in the resolution on Iraq adopted by the Parliament on 8 April, 2003.

Infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir

738. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been increase in number of infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that training camps are still operating in PoK and the Pakistan Government are not taking steps to close them down;

(d) whether there was any meeting between Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan recently; and

(e) if so, the details of the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) As per available information, the level of cross border infiltration, which was low until May 2004, had increased during the months of June-July, 2004 but decreased during August, and the trend has continued. However, there is no evidence to suggest that Pakistan has taken long term oriented action to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism, in the territory under its control, on a permanent basis.

(d) and (e) External Affairs Minister, Shri K. Natwar Singh, met the foreign Minister of Pakistan, Mr Khurshid Mrs Kasuri, in New Delhi on September 5-6, 2004 to review the overall progress in the Composite Dialogue. They exchanged views on carrying the process forward in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence.

The two Ministers agreed to a number of technical level meetings on various subjects, including, expert level meetings on Conventional and Nuclear CBMs, *inter alia*, to discuss the draft agreement on advance notification of missile tests; meeting between railway authorities on the Munnabao-Khokhrapar rail link; meeting between Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers; meeting between Narcotics Control Authorities, including for finalisation of an MOU; meeting between the Indian Coast Guards and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency to, *inter alia*, discuss the Memorandum of Understanding for establishing communication link between them; and meeting on all issues related to commencement of a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad.

They also agreed to the establishment of a Committee of Experts to consider issus related to trade; a Joint Survey of the boundary pillars in the horizontal segment of the international boundary in the Sir Creek area; addition of a new category of Tourist Visa in the visa regime between the two countries, and to promote group tourism; set up a mechanism to deal with the issue of civilian prisoners and fishermen, effectively and speedily; undertake further measures for facilitation of visits to religious shrines, and upkeep of historical sites; implement the outcome of the August, 2004 meeting of Defence Secretaries; and enhanced interaction and exchanges among the respective Foreign Offices, including study tours of young diplomats/probationers to each other's country.

They, *inter alia*, agreed to continue with the serious and sustained dialogue, and reiterated the confidence that the Composite Dialogue will lead to peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues to the satisfaction of both sides.

Keralite fishermen in Pak custody

739. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kerala based fishermen detained in Pakistan;

(b) whether Government have initiated any steps for their release; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) As per available information, presently